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wastes it since it defeats completely the pupose for which the paper was written and, therefore, makes it useless.

6. *Desirability of a Heuristic Treatment.*—The human mind does not care about isolated facts, but likes to gain a *point of view* which will enable it to include many facts at once. Therefore it is essential for the success of an expository paper that the general connection between the problems discussed be made apparent. For this purpose a free, informal style is desirable, and much to be preferred to the formal and dogmatic style of Euclid.

7. *Restriction of Scope.*—If an expository paper is primarily demonstrative, it will necessarily be concerned with a limited field and, in accordance with section 2, this field will have to be of a rather elementary character. Most of such papers, however, will be primarily descriptive. In such descriptive papers no proofs should be attempted except when such proofs can actually be furnished without using other prerequisites than those mentioned in section 2, and when this does not use up too much of the available space, which should properly be reserved for a full and clear exposition of the more important features of the theory. The object of these papers is to *arouse interest* and to convey *some* information, but *not* to carry the reader to the very confines of knowledge. The attempt to accomplish this latter purpose would defeat the former since it would necessarily lead to excessive brevity, thus offending against the principle laid down in section 5.

8. *Character of References Given.*—A reference may be accurate and satisfactory from the point of view of a scholar, and may, nevertheless, prove to be perfectly useless from the point of view of the reader, whom we are attempting to benefit, because the source referred to may be far beyond his comprehension. Therefore, the references should be classified, and special emphasis placed upon those books and articles which are not beyond the reader's scope. This should be supplemented by a short graduated list of standard books, study of which may have the effect of equipping the reader to approach the higher literature of the subject.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

REVIEWS.

Gli Scienziati Italiani dall'Inizio del Medio Evo ai Nostri Giorni. Diretto da ALDO MIELI. Volume I, parte 1. Roma, A. Nardecchia, 1921. Royal 8vo. 10 + 234 pages. Price 45 lire.

This is the first part of an important and a sumptuous repertory of which it is expected that one volume will be published each year for a series of years. It is a bio-bibliographical work of Italian scientists from the middle ages to our own day. The term scientists is to be interpreted as including: philosophers, mathematicians, astronomers, physicists, chemists, mineralogists, geologists, biologists, psychologists, geographers, etc. The sketches are all signed and in many of them are facsimiles of manuscripts and reproductions of portraits. They are not arranged according to any special plan, except, possibly, the order in which they may have reached the editor.

Among the 34 sketches by 17 authors, in the part under review, are the following seven sketches which have interest for us: Redento Baranzano (1590–1622), philosopher and astronomer, by G. Boffito, 208–212; Ulisse Dini (1845–1918), mathematician, by G. Loria, 137–150; Leonardo Fibonacci (sec. XII–XIII), mathematician, by G. Loria, 4–12; Giovanni Inghirami (1779–1851), astronomer and geodesist, by G. Giovannozzi, 188–196; Giovanni Antonio Magini (1555–1617), astronomer and geographer, by A. Favaro, 101–111; Giuseppe Moletti (1531–1588), astronomer and cosmographist, by A. Favaro, 36–39; Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli (1835–1910), astronomer and historian of science, by E. Millosevich, 45–67.

The sketch of Dini is divided up as follows: "Vita" (containing portrait and a two-page facsimile of a manuscript), pages 137–141; "Opera," 142–146; "Bibliografia" with a list of 62 scientific papers in addition to parliamentary papers, 146–152; "Letteratura" which contains simply the references to the sketches of Dini by L. Bianchi and W. B. FORD. [Compare *1919*, 205, 455; *1920*, 271.]

So also for Leonardo: "Vita," 4–5; "Opera," 6–10; "Bibliografia," 11; "Letteratura," 12, the last title in which is R. B. McClenon, "Leonardo of Pisa and his *Liber Quadratorum*," published in this MONTHLY, *1919*, 1–8.

Everyone interested in the history of science will wish to have in his library a copy of Mieli's valuable "Repertorio."

R. C. ARCHIBALD.

January 19, 1921.

Das Fermatproblem in seiner bisherigen Entwicklung. By PAUL BACHMANN. Berlin and Leipzig. Walter de Gruyter & Co., 1919. 8 + 160 pages. Price 12 marks.

This little book, written in the terrible days of 1918, is in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the doctorate of Felix Klein. It is avowedly a glorification of German scientific effort in the theory of numbers, but the author is too great a scientist to allow any unworthy motive to color the presentation of the subject. He treats the work of German and non-German with scholarly impartiality and thoroughness.

The book gives in very convenient form the chief results of 284 years of struggle with the problem of proving the possibility or impossibility in integers of the equation

$$x^n + y^n = z^n$$

for values of n greater than 2. This problem, raised by certain comments of Fermat, was the object of a prize by the French Academy in 1823, and later in 1853. In 1908 a prize of 100,000 marks was offered by the Royal Academy of Science of Göttingen for a solution of the problem. Apart from the stimulus